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PRINTER'S-MARK OF GEOFFROY TORY, (1525)

## Notes on New Books

CYNTHIA: By Leonard Merrick. With an Introduction by Maurice Hewlett. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company.

Maurice Hewlett was chosen to write the Introduction to the limited edition of Leonard Merrick's *Cynthia* and we are not surprised to find him declaring: "Now it's an odd thing, but not so odd as it seems at first blush, that while you may conceive a poet in these relations and succeed in interesting your readers, you will fail with a novelist. I cannot now remember a single interesting novel about a novelist. There is *Pendennis*, of course; but who believes that Pen was a great novelist or who cares what kind of a novelist he was? Who cares about Walter Lorraine?" Evidently Mr. Hewlett is confining himself to a consideration of the works of English novelists, although we believe there are many who did care what sort of a novelist Pen was, what sort of a novelist Walter Lorraine was, who still do care. Notwithstanding Mr. Hewlett's ingenious deduction that Humphrey Kent in *Cynthia* was in no sense an explicit genius, and that his technique seems to have been that of Mr. George Moore, we, ourselves can be very sure that Leonard Merrick has made Humphrey's being a novelist interest us very much, has made us give a great deal of constructive thought to just what sort of novels Humphrey *did* write, even if it is not barely possible—but that is Leonard Merrick's business! But we do agree with Maurice Hewlett that *Cynthia* is one of Leonard Merrick's loveliest women, which is hearty praise. *Cynthia* is a book Philistines should be *forced* to read, for somewhere there is vulnerability

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—SOMETIMES—

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in the area of much thick skin and Leonard Merrick has javelin ready.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, A TRIBUTE. By William Hard. Portland, Maine: Thomas Bird Mosher: 1919.

*Theodore Roosevelt, A Tribute* by William Hard was first printed in *The New Republic* under the title *Roosevelt Now*. We are grateful to Thomas Bird Mosher of Portland, Maine, for its perpetuation in the beautiful little volume which he has issued in an edition limited to 550 copies printed, with rubrication, on Van Gelder hand-made paper, bound in gray-azure boards, stamped in deep blue. To anyone with an admiration for the great American this tribute will be an inspiration, and twice blessed will the bibliophile-Rooseveltian (and there are many such) be in the possession of this beautiful little book.

JEHOVAH, GOD OF BATTLES. By Harvey M. Watts. Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Company.

Those who are familiar with Mr. Watts' *Sonnets of Consolation and Indignation*, in *Over There* and who have responded to his war verse in general, will be interested in the second edition of his Phi Beta Kappa Satire, *Jenovah, God of Battles Up to Date, The German God*. The monologue, written in 1918, which proved to be a prophecy in the form of a soliloquy by the Kaiser, epitomizes all that was so shamelessly set out as German policy in cold-blooded cynicism, which policy of world domination through the world war was defeated only by America's triumphant participation in the war as is, indeed, symbolized by Mr. Watts in his coda to the poem. A new preface and epilogue bring the poem up to the real down-fall of the Kaiser, the symbolic downfall having been forecast in the satire in its original shape. As written, the soliloquy becomes a sort of manual by which those who would inform themselves as to what German policy really stood for, when it believed its system of "force, fraud and guile" was irresistible, can easily do so through the revolting sentiments and boastful lines justified by